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News of the Week.

EAST.

—Duden, Freres & Co., New York, lace importers, are charged with having, during a long series of years, carried on a systematic course of swindling on the revenue department. Their house in that city was established about 1858. Their principal house is in Brussels, and they have branch houses in Nottingham, London, St. Petersburg, San Francisco, and New York. Richard Musser and Frederick Musser carry on the business in New York, and Otto Musser manages the San Francisco house. According to the affidavits the penalties will reach the enormous sum of \$2,500,000. It is alleged that this house is trying to form itself into a joint stock company so as to evade part of the liability.

—Philadelphia.—The mint is engaged in remelting vast quantities of light gold coins. Since January 1, some twenty-three million dollars' worth have been melted, and ten millions more will be received this week. Orders for the new trade dollars will be filled in the early part of next week.

—When Walworth donned the prison uniform at Sing Sing, he remarked: "I have gained seven pounds in clothes since I came here. I feel now like engaging in a bare-knuckle match." He remarked of the handcuffs which linked him to Gillen, the wife-murderer, "They are the staunchest cuffs I ever wore."

—The total amount to be raised by taxes, this year, in New York city, is slightly in excess of \$27,000,000, of which \$16,700,000 are required for city purposes, and \$10,300,000 for state purposes.

WEST.

—A band of 200 Arizona Indians has crossed the line and entered Chihuahua to spoil the Mexicans. Captain Jack and his companions in confinement are reported to be growing wan and weak from their imprisonment. The number of Modoc captives has been increased by the surrender of three more braves with their women and children. Lieut. Babcock of the fifth cavalry who was sent in pursuit of the murderers of Lieut. Almy, in Arizona, overtook them in the mountains and compelled an engagement, killed fourteen and captured six.

—St. Louis.—J. Golden, who has been engaged with the party of Gen. Barrett in surveying the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian reservations, arrived here from Cheyenne agency one hundred miles north of Fort Bull, Indian territory. He reports about two thirds of the work completed; also, that the Cheyenne Indians, after celebrating their medicine festival, to do which they left their reservation, and started for Antelope hills. It is not known where they will turn up next, but their agent does not seem to apprehend any trouble. There were 75 lodges of them. One band of Cheyenne, under Little Robe, refused to follow the main bands and remained at the agency. The Arapahoes under Little Raven, Powder Face, Yellow Bear and Big Mouth, numbering 450 lodges, are on their reservations and peaceable. It is said they will defend the whites against the Cheyenne should the latter make an attack.

—The railroad valuation of Ohio has increased nearly eleven millions during the last year. The board of equalization fixed the value of railroad property last year at \$68,312,046, and this year at \$79,213,550.

—Shipments of Texas cattle east from Wichita, Ellsworth, and other points in Kansas, have commenced. There are 60,000 head at Wichita, and 150,000 head on the way to that point from Texas. According to official railroad reports there is also a large number at Ellsworth, and small droves elsewhere.

—The question of the terminus of the Northern Pacific railroad continues to excite the people of Puget sound, Washington territory, and Portland, Oregon. The town of Seattle, Washington territory, offers, by way of inducement, a donation of land and a subscription of money already amounting to \$1,000,000. The town of Tacoma offers the control of its entire water front and a large tract of land. In case Seattle does not get the terminus a responsible party agrees to build, equip and put in running order a branch from Seattle, to connect with the Northern Pacific near Tacoma by the 1st of January, at or for a less amount than that pledged to the company by Seattle.

—The Yellow Stone expedition has been heard from. They have experienced no trouble from the Indians so far.

—The gain to California's population by all routes of travel, during the last six months, is twenty-four thousand four hundred and sixteen; twelve thousand from China and Japan.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

—Upon the question made by Mr. Orton, president of the Western Union telegraph company, the attorney-general has decided that upon lines of telegraph operating under the act of July 24th, 1866, officers and agents of the different departments of the government may telegraph each other upon official business at rates fixed by the postmaster-general.

—The attorney-general has decided that the fifteen per cent. increase of compensation of employees of the senate and house of representatives, as provided for by the act of March 3, 1873, applies only to those employed during the 42d congress, and does not apply to persons whose employment in that capacity commenced after the 4th of March, 1873.

—Illinois has 4,396 miles of railway service, the largest amount of any of the United States. Ohio is next, with 4,877 miles, and New York is third. Massachusetts has about 1,700 miles. None of the New England states have as many as 1,000 miles. The total railway service of the country is 63,514 miles, an increase of 5,803 miles during the past year.

—Under the law which Congress passed to refund the duties on certain imported articles which actually entered into the construction of buildings in the burned district in Chicago, the treasury has paid a drawback of nearly \$250,000 to the importers or actual consumers of the articles. Thirty thousand dollars have been paid since Congress adjourned. This is very largely in excess of the estimate made at the time the law was passed. The secretary of the treasury has paid to the board of public works \$460,000, one half of the appropriation made by the last Congress for continuing improvements around public grounds.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

—It is reported that the French government has under consideration the question of calling a congress of representatives of the great powers in Paris, to discuss the terms of the new commercial treaty.

—The permanent retirement of Bismarck from the Prussian cabinet, as announced some months ago, is on the eve of accomplishment. The prince has taken preparatory steps for his withdrawal. He will retain the German chancellorship. Von Bismarck is reported to be minister of foreign affairs.

—Paris.—The second instalment of two hundred and fifty million francs of the last milliard of the war indemnity was delivered to the German treasury on the 5th. There now remains due to Germany but five hundred million francs, which, in accordance with the treaty signed at Berlin on the 15th of March last, is to be paid by the 5th of September next.

—Salvador Cisneros has been chosen president of the Cuban republic, Cisneros having resigned. The federal republicans of Cuba have published a manifesto urging the union of all parties, and calling on the insurgents in the name of the captain-general and the republic to lay down their arms and enjoy the benefits of republican government. The republicans have appointed a committee to go to Madrid and represent them before the government and Cortes.

—A special from The Hague to the Pall Mall Gazette denies that any settlement has been made between the Dutch and the Achenees. In the States-General of Holland, July 21, the colonial minister announced that all the supplies requisite for the equipment of the second expedition against Acheen have been furnished. He added that no negotiations with the sultan of Acheen were pending, as had been reported in public prints; but it was not improbable that they might be opened through the intermediary office of a friendly Rajah. The government of Holland was willing to conclude an honorable peace, but the reported conditions of settlement were wholly inadmissible.

—The government at Madrid has decided to employ every resource to crush the Carlists. Bounties are offered for soldiers, and if this does not succeed, the government will appeal to the patriotism of the country to supply combatants against the Carlists stating frankly the situation and means of saving Spain. The proposed constitution for a federal republic divides Spain into eleven states, Cuba, etc., being made territories. Each state is to elect four senators, and deputies are to be chosen by the people. The president is limited to one term of four years. The Cortes are to hold two sessions each year, and members are to receive salaries. The vigorous measures taken by the government have prevented the declaration of independence, which the irreconcilables were intending to issue at Barcelona.

—A dispatch from Bombay gives intelligence of a rising among the Hindoo peasants in the district of Poonah. They refuse to pay rents, and have plundered and burned several houses. Two bands have been dispersed by the police.

—Birmingham and Wolverhampton journals express alarm at the decrease of orders for hardware from America, and at the remarkable development of the trade in the United States, whose manufacturers are supplying those of England in the colonies and South America.

—London.—An advertisement appears calling a meeting of all persons who have claims against the United States, which arose after the termination date fixed in the treaty of Washington, for the purpose of taking joint action for the advancement of their interests.

Snake-Charmer.

The most charming snake-charmer is Mrs. M., whom an inquirer, "not very much afraid of snakes," has been kindly allowed to interview. Mr. M., who received the visitor, after remarks upon the weather, produced out of a cupboard a large box-constrictor, a python, and several small snakes, which at once made themselves at home on the writing-table, among pens, inks and books.

Interviewer was a good deal startled, when the two large snakes coiled round and round Mr. M., and began to notice himself with their bright eyes and forked tongues. Mr. M. then went to call Mrs. M., leaving him alone with the box deposited on an arm-chair. He felt queer when the animal began gradually to come near him, to improve their *tele-act*, but was soon relieved by the entrance of his hosts, followed by two little children, charming and charmers also. The lady and the children went at once to the box, and calling it by the most endearing names allowed it to twine itself most gracefully round about them. This box-constrictor, as thick round as a small tree, twined playfully round the lady's waist and neck, forming a kind of turban round her head, and expected to be petted and made much of like a kitten. The children over and over again took its head in their hands and kissed its mouth, pushing aside its forked tongue in doing so. "Every one to his taste," as the old man said when he kissed the cow. The animal seemed much pleased, but kept continually turning its head toward interviewer, until he allowed it for a moment to nestle its head upon his sleeve. This splendid serpent coiled all round Mrs. M., while she moved about the room and when she stood up to pour out coffee.

About a year ago Mr. and Mrs. M. were away for six weeks, and left the box in charge of the keeper at the Zoo. The poor reptile moped, slept, and refused to be comforted; but, when his master and mistress appeared, he sprang upon them with delight, coiling himself round them, and showing every symptom of intense delight. The children are devoted to their "darling Cleo," as they call the snake, and smiled when interviewer asked if they were ever frightened by it.

Interviewer's conclusion. It is mere prejudice, when snakes are not venomous, to abhor them as we do. They are intelligent and harmless, perfectly clean, with no sort of smell, make no kind of noise, and move about far more gracefully than lap-dogs or other pets. These seemed very obedient, and remained in their cupboard when told to do so.—*All the Year Round.*

COMPENSATION.

Crooked and dwarfed the tree must stay
Nor lift its green head to the day,
Till useless growths are lopped away,
And thus doth human nature do;
Till it hath careful pruning too,
It cannot grow up straight and true.
For, but for chastenings severe,
No soul could ever tell how near
God comes to whom He loveth here.

They only know who wait in fear
The music of a footstep near,
Falling upon the listening ear,
And life's great depths are wonest stirred
In him who bath but seldom heard
The magic of a loving word,
By him the deepest rest is won,
Who tolls beneath the moonday sun
Faithful until his work is done.

And whether through the weary night
Have learned how pleasant is the light
Of morning breaks upon the sight,
Perchance the jewel seems most fair
To him whose patient toil and care
Has brought it to the upper air.
And other lips can never taste
A draught like that he sips at last
Who seeks it in the burning waste,

And after He has come to hide
Our lambs upon the other side,
We know our shepherd and our guide,
And thus by ways not understood,
Out of each dark wilderness,
Lead brings us compensating good,
And souls are perfected by fears,
And souls renew their youth with years,
And love looks into Heaven through tears.

VENTRILOQUISM.

The History and Peculiarities of the Art.

It was supposed for many years, and eminent physiologists gave countenance to the theory, that some peculiarity in the conformation of the larynx was requisite for ventriloquism, or at least that it was accomplished by processes essentially different from those adopted in ordinary speaking or singing; but it has been demonstrated that the vocal organs of the ventriloquist are the same as those of other men, nor is his use of them materially different from that of others. For success in the exercise of his art, he requires only keen perceptions, an ear delicately attuned to the variations of sound produced by distance or direction, and a strongly developed mimetic faculty. The vocal organs possess the power of imitating, under skillful training, all the sounds of animate or inanimate life, and in such a way as to represent them as heard at greater or less distance and from different directions. The ventriloquist is well aware that no one of our senses is more easily deceived than our hearing, because in listening to sounds we judge of their remoteness by comparing them with other sounds whose distance we are familiar with, and determine their distance by an arbitrary and often incorrect estimate of their relative volume at the place of their supposed emission, a standard which must often be faulty.

The uncertainty with regard to the direction of sound is the foundation of the art of ventriloquism. If we placed ten men in a row at such a distance from us that they are included in the angle within which we cannot judge of the direction of sound, and if on a calm day, each of them speaks in succession, we shall not be able with closed eyes to determine from which of the ten men any of the sounds proceed, and we shall be incapable of perceiving that there is any difference in the direction of the sounds emitted by the two outermost. If a man and a child are placed within the same angle, and if the man speaks with the accent of a child, without any corresponding motion in his mouth and face, we shall necessarily believe that his voice comes from the child; nay, if the child is so distant from the man that the voice actually appears to us to come from the man, we shall still continue to believe that the child is the speaker; and this conviction would require additional strength if the child favored the deception by accommodating its features and gestures to the words spoken by the man.

The ventriloquist utters the sound with the effect it would have upon the hearer's ear if it had really traversed the distance he designs it to represent, reducing its loudness, softening somewhat its quality or tone, and if it is in words, obscuring a little the consonate sounds, while retaining unaltered the pitch and duration. In doing this he modifies the tones of his voice by varying the position of the tongue and the soft palate, dilating or contracting the mouth or pharynx, and either dividing the buccal and pharyngeal cavities into several compartments or throwing them into one. This is done without movement of the lower jaw and with but slight motions of the lips. Usually the ventriloquist stands so as to give only a profile view of his face, unless at a distance from his audience, and thus has greater opportunity of concealing any slight motions of the facial muscles. In most cases, too, and comparatively remote voice is a falsetto, this being more within the command of the performer without perceptible facial movement than the natural tones. Some of the greatest ventriloquists, however, have never practised any concealment, but stand face to face with their audiences. M. Alexandre, M. St. Gilles and Louis de Brabant, who are informed, apparently did not move their lips or the muscles of their faces.

Ventriloquism loses its distinctive character if its imitations are not performed by a voice from the belly. The voice, indeed, does not come from that region; but when the ventriloquist utters sounds from the larynx without moving his face, he gives them strength by a powerful action of the abdominal muscles. Hence he speaks by means of his belly, although the throat is the real source from which the sounds proceed. The effort in every case is so great that the exercise of ventriloquism for any considerable length of time is very fatiguing, and occasions frequent conglutination on the part of the performer. The influence over the human mind which the ventriloquist derives from the skillful practice of his art is greater than which is exercised by any other species of conjurer. The ordinary magician requires the theater, his accomplices and the instruments of art, and he enjoys but a local sovereignty within the precincts of his own magic circle. The ventriloquist, on the contrary, has the supernatural always in command. In the open fields as well as in the crowded city, in the private apartment, as well as in the public hall; he can summon up innumerable spirits; and though the persons of his fictitious dialogue are not visible to the eye, yet they are unequivocally present to the imagination of his auditors, as if they had been shadowed forth in the silence of a spectral form.

Mr. Daugald Stewart, in some remarks upon the subject of ventriloquism, has stated several instances in which deceptions of this kind were very frequent. He mentions having seen a person who, by counterfeiting the gesticulations of a performer on the violin, while he imitated the music with his voice, riveted the eyes of his audience upon the instrument, though every sound they heard proceeded from his mouth. He tells also of another person who imitated the whistling of the wind through a narrow chink, and who often practiced the deception in the corner of a coffee house. He declares that he seldom failed to see some of the company rise to examine the tightness of the windows, while others more intent on the newspapers, contented themselves with putting on their hats and buttoning their coats. Mr. Stewart likewise mentions an exhibition formerly common in Europe, where a performer on the stage displayed the dumb show of singing with his lips and eyes and gestures, while another person, unseen, supplied the music with his voice. The deception in this case he found to be so complete as to impose upon the nicest ear and the quickest eye; but in the progress of the entertainment he became distinctly sensible of the imposition, and sometimes wondered that it should have misled him for a moment. In this case there can be no doubt that the deception was at first the work of the imagination and was not sustained by the acoustic principle. The real and the mock singer were too distant; and when the influence of the imagination subsided, the true direction of the sound was discovered.

One of the most remarkable ventriloquists that ever lived was M. St. Gilles of St. Germain en Laye, France, whose performances have been recorded by the abbe de la Chapelle. Once, when overtaken by a storm, St. Gilles took shelter in a neighboring convent, where the monks were in deep mourning over the recent death of a much esteemed member of their community. While lamenting over the tomb of their deceased brother the slight honors which had been paid to his memory, a voice was suddenly heard to issue from the roof of the choir, bewailing the condition of the deceased in purgatory, and reproving the brotherhood for want of zeal. The tidings of the extraordinary event brought the entire fraternity to the church. The voice from above repeated its lamentations and reproaches, and the whole company fell upon their face and vowed to make reparation for their error. They accordingly chanted in full choir a *de profundis*, during the intervals of which the spirit of the departed monk expressed his satisfaction at their pious exercises. The prior afterward inveighed against modern skepticism on the subject of apparitions, and St. Gilles had great difficulty in convincing the fraternity that the whole thing was a deception.

Another famous ventriloquist was Louis de Brabant, at one time valet de chambre to Francis I. Rejected by the parents of a very rich heiress as an unsuitable match for their daughter, Louis, on the death of the father, paid a visit to the widow; and, as soon as he entered the room, the voice of her deceased husband was heard thus to address her: "Give my daughter in marriage to Louis Brabant; he is a man of fortune and character, and I endure the pains of purgatory for having refused her to him. Obey this admonition, and give repose to the soul of your departed husband." Of course the widow complied. But Brabant's difficulties were not yet overcome. He wanted money to defray the wedding expenses, and resolved to work on the fears of an old banker, M. Cornu of Lyons, who had amassed immense wealth by usury and extortion. Having obtained an evening interview, he contrived to turn the conversation to the subject of departed spirits and ghosts. During an interval of silence, the voice of the miser's deceased father was heard, complaining of his situation in purgatory, and calling loudly upon his son to rescue him from his sufferings, by enabling Brabant to redeem the Christians at that time enslaved by the Turks. Not succeeding on the first occasion, Bra-

bant was compelled to make a second visit to the miser, when he enlisted, not only the father, but all his deceased relations, in the appeal; and in this way he obtained a thousand crowns for the purpose of liberating the Christian captives. When Cornu was at last undeceived, it is said that he died of sheer exaction and mortification.

It may be remarked, as rather an odd circumstance, that there have been very few female ventriloquists, and these have always manifested a deficiency of power. Only one ever attained any considerable celebrity, and even her name is unknown. She lived in Amsterdam in the sixteenth century, and is referred to incidentally by writers of that period as possessing a remarkable gift. The art seems to be known even by the savage races. We have authentic accounts of its practice in the most expert manner by the Esquimaux, some of whom are reported to have produced extraordinary acoustic effects by this means; and it is quite certain that ventriloquism is known among the African negroes. It is upon record that a recently imported negro in the island of St. Thomas, in the last century, was burned alive as a sorcerer for having caused voices to emanate from inanimate objects, such as earthen vessels, walking-sticks, statues, etc.

Rest.

The Ordinary Rules of Health.

A man who observes the ordinary rules of health and is careful every day that he obeys the demand of his body for exercise and the requirements of his mind for relaxation will not only stand a large amount of work, but will continue to a good old age to fulfill the duties of life. Men break down in middle life not because they are overworked but on account of their ignorance of the imperative demands of their physical system. In some cases it is not ignorance of these demands but willful neglect of their duty to themselves. Not long since a merchant, hearty and apparently strong, was taken ill, and his doctor pronounced it a case of overwork. Perhaps the doctor thought so, but if he had inquired closely into the habits of the patient he would have found that it was not overwork, but gross abuse of himself. Confined in a close apartment ten hours a day in the business season, eating trash at cheap restaurants, or not eating at all during the daytime, at night making a late meal, retiring to bed with a load of indigestible food, to wake up in the morning feeling heavy and seeking relief by some invigorating cordial, the merchant finally yielded to these personal assaults, and the doctor pronounced it a case of overwork.

Men do not gauge themselves as they should. The engineer who would attempt to carry a hundred pounds of steam when he knew his boilers were only gauged for seventy would be only an idiot, but sensible men to-day are carrying a pressure which their common sense should tell them is not only above the limits of their brain power, but is beyond the average of ordinary men. When they break they go to pieces mentally and live sad monuments of the folly of men who will not obey what is almost intuitively taught by the very body which they injure. It is more remarkable that we see these instances of failure and yet heed not the example. We think we are to be exempt from such results, but each day the story is told again and again.

Instances are not rare of men who appear to lead an industrious life, and rarely know sickness. They work hard, but do not appear to be overworked. When you meet such a case if you will inquire closely you will find that he is a man who takes his meals regularly, has his seven or eight hours' sleep, does not overeat, is not intemperate in the use of anything, and takes his rest as he goes along. We are like locomotives. We need oiling all the time, not once a week or once a month. When you overheat a locomotive by overuse, you take the temper out of it, and it is used up. It is the same with men, women and children. When shall we grow wise?

A Blunder.

Another fatal blunder by a drug clerk is reported. A man who had a discussion about family matters with his wife, and came out second best, threatened to commit suicide, and went out to a drugstore and asked for twenty-five cents worth of strychnine. The ignorant drug clerk, instead of putting up poison gave him some harmless drug in mistake, blunderingly labelled it "strychnine." The man took it home, gulped it down in the presence of his wife, and then threw himself on the lounge to die. His wife, instead of running for a physician and a stomach pump, waited until she thought he was dead, and then commenced to rifle his pockets for his loose change. He was on his feet in an instant, and instead of dying he made it very lively for his better-half for about ten minutes; and then he threatened to get a shot gun and shoot the drug clerk, and his wife said if he didn't she would. And now discord and such things dwell in that house, all on account of a blundering drug clerk.

HUMOROUS.

SIC TRANSIT.—That across the ocean.

WHEN Shakespeare wrote about patience on a monument, did he refer to doctors' patients? No. How do you know he didn't? Because you always find them under a monument.

A new terror is added to dreams as the picnic season approaches. What awful visions of piles of ham-sandwiches to be made, and legions of lost spoons haunt the slumbers of women.

A man who fell into a vat of boiling lard and got out alive, says it was not an unpleasant sensation after the first moment, but he thought what a mighty queer-shaped doughnut he would make.

A FASHIONABLE young lady accidentally dropped one of her false eyebrows in her opera-box the other evening, and greatly frightened her beau, who, on seeing it, thought it was his mistake.

A YOUNG man who prided himself on his mental qualifications, once speaking of the advantages of these, remarked, "What is better than a good education?" "Common sense, you fool you," quickly responded one of his hearers.

A PORTLAND man was caught fishing for trout on another man's land the other day; the owner remonstrated, but retired in silence before the majestic answer: "Who wants to catch your trout? I'm only trying to drown this worm."

Two little girls were lately prattling together, and one of them said, "We keep four servants, have got six horses, and lots of carriages; now what have you got?" With quite as much pride, the other answered, "We've got a skunk under our barn."

A YOUNG lady teacher in a Lawrence Sunday-school caught a boy smiling last Sunday. Said she: "What are you smiling at, Johnny?" "Nothing, mum," was the answer. "I know better," said the teacher severely; "now tell me what it was." Johnny looked frightened as he stammered said, "I—saw yer n-newspaper sticking out um." The teacher sat down suddenly and arranged things.

THE WOODKOK.—The woodkok is of them kind ov birds who can git up from the ground with about as much whizz, and about as bizzzy as a fire-cracker, and fly away as crooked as a kerkew. They feed on low, wet lands, and only eat the most delicate things. They run their tungs down into the soft earth, and gather tender and tiny food. They lay a long, slender bill, and a rich brown plumage, and when they light on the ground yu loose sight ov them as quick as yu do ov a drop ov water when it falls into a mill-pond. The first thing yu generally see ov a woodkok is a whizz, and the last thing is a whirr. How so many ov them is killed on the wing is a mystery to me, for it is a quicker job than snatching pennys off a red-hot stove. I hav shot at them often, but I never heard ov my killing one. They are one ov the game birds, and munny good judges think they are the most elegant vittles that wear feathers.

Josh Billings.

THE PATRIDGE.—The patridge is also a game bird. Their game is tew drum on a log in the spring ov the year, and keep both eyes open, watching the sportsman.

Patridges are shot on the wing, and are as easy to miss as a ghost is. It iz plum brood to see the old bird hide her yung brood when danger iz near. This must be seen; it kant be described and make eny body believe it.

The patridge, grouse, and pheasant are cousins, and either one ov them straddle a gridiron natural enuff to hav bin born there.

Take a couple ov yung patridges and pot them down, and serve up with the right kind ov chorus, and they beat the ham sandwich yu buy on the Camden and Amboy railroad 87 1/2 per cent.

I hav eat these lamentable Nu Jersey ham sandwich, and must say that I prefer a couple ov bass-wood chips, soaked in mustard-water, and stuck together with Spalding's glue.—*Josh Billings.*

NICKEL.—Within the past three years, more especially since the discovery of practical methods for electro-plating with nickel, the demand for this metal has greatly increased, and its price has advanced. It has risen from \$1 to 3 3/4 per pound, and its expense has become so great that a substitute for it in the art is now sought. A good substitute, it is stated, may be found in the metal manganese. Dr. Percy, in a letter to the London Times, states that twenty years ago he made an alloy, in which manganese was used in place of nickel, and the resemblance of the alloy to the ordinary German silver was perfect. Copper 75 per cent., manganese 25 per cent., makes an alloy resembling German silver, and better in its qualities.

THE Champaign county (Ill.) farmers grange applied to a railroad for half fare for a trip to Springfield and return on the fourth of July, and got snubbed, as it deserved. After the hard things the grangers have said about the cold-blooded railroad monopolies it required a pretty hard check to ask such a favor, especially as this was one of the roads that abolished passes and special rates after July 1.

Transatlantic Ballooning.

[From the Boston Post.]

Probably no one who has heard of the inebriate who went home late and waited for the bed to come round to him ever supposed that his identical principle of locomotion would be taken up to be utilized in making the aerial passage of the Atlantic. But unless Prof. Wise, the prince of aeronauts, has succeeded in making himself very much misunderstood, that is the precise plan that is at the present time coiling and uncoiling its springs in its head, and he fondly anticipates the pleasure of making practice out of this theory on the occurrence of the centennial at Philadelphia. If he should succeed in this pretty miracle, science and the century would ever after be twined in the historical recollection. The professor found a liberal lack of faith in his project in this community, owing to causes over which no balloonist could well be expected to have control. Our city authorities were on other things inclined, and for aeronauts had no mind. It was a sort of warning to them to behold how very dear gas had become. They felt that they had too loud calls for service on the earth to think just now of going "up in a balloon." And remembering Vienna might be seen in its confusion of commissioners and chaos of contributions, with quite as much certainty by stepping on board a steamer at our wharves, they prudently concluded to let Vienna and balloons go their own gait for the present, and try to lift the pressure of matters from the shoulders of the community. So that if Prof. Wise is allowed to demonstrate his neat rotatory theory at all, he will have the lasting satisfaction of hitching it on to the centenary occasion, of which, indeed, it will by no means be unworthy if a success. The aeronaut's idea is that there is a belt in space above the atmosphere and gravitation influences of the earth which he can easily reach, and where he can subside until such time as the planet revolves sufficiently to bring his balloon over Europe, and then he will come down and illustrate in a new way "the descent of man."

Like the problem of perpetual motion it is a perfectly sure thing as soon as the controlling element in it is fairly laid hold of and secured. Once harnessed that into the plan, and no doubt the work is accomplished. Get the perpetual feature into the motion conundrum, and it is plain as your hat. So if the professor can once get above the reach of the law of gravitation, and manage to keep alive up there without any of the ordinary sublimity inconveniences, he may drop at length into the lap of Europe and embodied triumph of aerial navigation. Of course, it would be presumptuous to question his ability to scale those heights of space where the annoying atmospheric currents are not allowed to play even at their base. It may be as well to concede at once that he can manage the problem of the upper currents as easily as the pastry cook handles the upper crust; for there are no laurels of very striking verdure to be won, even in out-reasoning him on that well-born field. But when it comes to that "eastward drift" of which he speaks with such scientific confidence, he has clearly struck a vein of which a good many persons will insist that they know as much as he does. It is a pretty idea, nevertheless, that of remaining poised above the earth until it has turned over a certain distance, and then dropping down three thousand miles away, and in the exact spot desired. It may answer to style it crossing the Atlantic, but the voyager will have had no more experience of the Atlantic than of the Pacific. If sick at that latitude, could it be called legitimate sea-sickness? The experiments suggests, however, a variety of ideas, one of which is that, in case of hostilities with European powers, by contriving a catapult of sufficient projectile energy, shells and such might be sent up to that particular point in space of which Professor Wise speaks, and held there until the nation comes under for which they were intended. The gas bill for this century balloon may thus be a low for the revelations it would draw after it.

MR. SAMUEL BLACK of Essex county, Ontario, has a very pretty daughter who caused him a world of trouble by her willful preference for Charles Wigle, a highly improper young man of that vicinity. Last week the couple went off on a two days' steamer excursion, and the father, declaring that he couldn't leave his corn and potatoes to run after that girl half his time, met them at the landing on their return and shot Wigle dead.

CHICAGO conducts her murder trials on business-like principles. Philip Brown, a colored barber, was placed on trial at half-past 10 o'clock, the other morning, for smothering in a fellow-creature's head with a sauce pan, April 22, and at 10 p. m. they had him convicted of manslaughter and nicely sentenced to the penitentiary for five years. It takes a New York criminal court longer than this to decide not to accept the services of the first juror.

He who follows truth carries his star in his brain.